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2001 Summary of Fireworks Injuries in Illinois

During the month of July 2001, the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office conducted a survey of fireworks injuries. The survey was sent to 210 hospitals throughout the State. 94 hospitals responded.

In June 2001, the Division of Fire Prevention requested data from 210 hospitals within the State to determine various facts about injuries associated with fireworks occurring during a four-week time period which included the July 4th holiday.

Some of the information on our form was not filled out so we cannot give 100% accurate information. The firework causing the highest number of injuries was bottle rockets at 35 (24%).

The number of responding hospitals is up from last year's (54%) to 82 respondents (39%). Of the 82 hospitals responding to our survey, 20 (24%) had no fireworks related injuries during the time period of June 23 through July 20, 2001.

There were 147 persons injured by fireworks this year. Injuries to males were 102 (70%) and to females were 44 (30%).

In the past, injuries affecting fingers have been the largest percent. This year as well as last year the eyes have exceeded with (19%).

Burns were the leading types of injury (54%).

If you have any questions about the survey or work like additional information, feel free to contact us at 217-785-1520.

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2002 Summary of Fireworks Injuries in Illinois

During the month of July 2002, the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office conducted a survey of fireworks injuries. The survey was sent to 208 hospitals throughout the State. 94 hospitals responded.

In June 2002, the Division of Fire Prevention requested data from 208 hospitals within the State to determine various facts about injuries associated with fireworks occurring during a four-week time period which included the July 4th holiday.

Some of the information on our form was not filled out so we cannot give 100% accurate information. The firework causing the highest number of injuries was bottle rockets at 33 (21%).

The number of responding hospitals is up from last year's (39%) to 94 respondents (45%). Of the 94 hospitals responding to our survey, 28 (30%) had no fireworks related injuries during the time period of June 23 through July 20, 2002.

There were 155 persons injured by fireworks this year. Injuries to males were 113 (73%) and to females were 41 (26%).

In the past, injuries affecting fingers have been the largest percent. This year as well as last year the eyes have exceeded with (19%).

Burns were the leading types of injury (52%).

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2003 Summary of Fireworks Injuries in Illinois

During the month of July 2003, the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office conducted a survey of fireworks injuries. The survey was sent to 210 hospitals throughout the State. 91 hospitals responded.

In June 2003, the Division of Fire Prevention requested data from 210 hospitals within the State to determine various facts about injuries associated with fireworks occurring during a four-week time period which included the July 4th holiday.

Some of the information on our form was not filled out so we cannot give 100% accurate information. The firework causing the highest number of injuries were bottle rockets and sparklers each at 28 (19%).

The number of responding hospitals is down from last year's (45%) to 91 respondents (43%). Of the 91 hospitals responding to our survey, 20 (10%) had no fireworks related injuries during the time period of June 23 through July 20, 2003.

There were 147 persons injured by fireworks this year. Injuries to males were 102 (69%) and to females were 45 (31%).

In the past, injuries affecting fingers have been the largest percent. This year as well as last year the eyes have exceeded with (21%).

Burns were the leading types of injury (63%).

If you have any questions about the survey or work like additional information, feel free to contact us at 217-785-1520.

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2004 Summary of Fireworks Injuries in Illinois

During the month of July 2004, the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office conducted a survey of fireworks injuries. The survey was sent to 209 hospitals throughout the State.

In June 2004, the Division of Fire Prevention requested data from 209 hospitals within the State to determine various facts about injuries associated with fireworks occurring during a four-week time period which included the July 4th holiday.

Some of the information on our form was not filled out so we cannot give 100% accurate information. The firework causing the highest number of injuries were bottle rockets and sparklers each at 44 (24%).

The number of responding hospitals is down from last year's (43%) to 98 respondents (47%). Of the 98 hospitals responding to our survey, 23 (11%) had no fireworks related injuries during the time period of June 23 through July 20, 2004.

There were 186 persons injured by fireworks this year. Injuries to males were 114 (61%) and to females were 69 (37%), leaving unknown at 3 (2%).

The past two years, injuries affecting the eyes have been the largest percent. This year fingers exceeds the eyes at (24%).

Burns were the leading types of injury (57%).

If you have any questions about the survey or work like additional information, feel free to contact us at 217-785-1520.

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National Fire Protection Association

The authority on fire, electrical, and building safety

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Fireworks

Legal or not for consumers, fireworks are too risky for amateurs

Permanent scarring, loss of vision, dismemberment – these are too often the harsh realities of amateur fireworks use. To keep the public safe from fireworks-related injuries and deaths, the nonprofit NFPA urges everyone to treat fireworks, whether legal or illegal for consumers, as suitable only for use by trained professionals. According to NFPA, amateur fireworks use endangers not only the users, but also bystanders and surrounding property and structures. Pyrotechnic devices ranging from sparklers to aerial rockets cause thousands of fires and serious injuries each year.

"Safe and sane fireworks don't exist," says Dr. John Hall, NFPA assistant vice president of Fire Analysis and Research. "When things go wrong with fireworks, they go very wrong, very fast, far faster than any fire protection provisions can reliably respond."

In recent years, fireworks have been one of the leading causes of injuries serious enough to require hospital emergency room treatment. Fireworks can result in severe burns, fractures, or scars or even death or disfigurement that can last a lifetime. The thousands of serious injuries each year typically harm the eyes, head, or hands, and are mostly reported in states where fireworks are legal. Even sparklers, which are considered by many to be harmless, reach temperatures of more than 1,000° F.

"Fireworks are dangerous and unpredictable, especially in the hands of amateurs," says Judy Comoletti, NFPA assistant vice president of Public Education. "The few seconds of pleasure those fireworks may bring are not worth the risk of injury, permanent scarring, or even death."

Wooded areas, homes, and even automobiles have become engulfed in flames because of fireworks. Fireworks-related fires have typically caused at least \$20 million in property loss (not adjusted for inflation) each year in recent years. A substantial portion of the structure fire property loss due to fireworks typically involves bottle rockets or other fireworks rockets. These rockets can land on rooftops or wedge within certain structures and still retain enough heat to cause a fire.

"For most people, their family and their home represent the hard work of a lifetime and their hopes for the future," says Dr. Hall. "No one would risk losing what's most important to them if they understood the dangers of fireworks. There are safer alternatives to using fireworks on the Fourth of July."

Public fireworks displays are one of those alternatives. Conducted by trained professionals, these displays are the smartest and safest fireworks alternative for anyone because they are established under controlled settings and regulations. After these displays, or any other time, children should never pick up fireworks that may be left over. Fireworks that have been ignited and fail to immediately explode or discharge can cause injury because they may still be active. Children should always tell an adult if they find fireworks rather than picking up smoking or charred fireworks themselves, which is just too risky.

Clearly, fireworks are capable of devastating and fatal injuries. According to the [American Pyrotechnics Association](#), there are currently six states that ban all consumer fireworks (AZ, DE, MA, NJ, NY and RI). The fireworks banned in these states don't become safer when used in others. Remember, all fireworks should be left to professionals

URL: <http://www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=297&itemID=19378&URL=Research%20%20Reports/Fact%20sheets/Seasonal%20safety/Fireworks>

NFPA (National Fire Protection Association)
1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471 USA



**National Fire
Protection Association**

The authority on fire, electrical, and building safety

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Fireworks

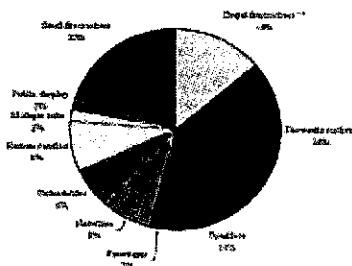
Use of consumer fireworks can lead to devastating burns, other injuries, fires and even death. NFPA does not endorse the use of consumer fireworks and instead encourages the public to enjoy displays of fireworks conducted by trained professionals.

- Facts & figures
- Twenty organizations join NFPA in effort to stop consumer fireworks.
- Download a free copy of NFPA's report on fireworks (PDF, 89 KB)
- NFPA model fireworks law
- Fire investigation reports
- NFPA Journal® articles on fireworks
- Fireworks FAQs

Facts & figures

- In 2002, an estimated 3,000 reported structure or vehicle fires were started by fireworks. These resulted in no deaths, 60 injuries and \$29 million in direct property damage.
 - In 2003, 9,300 people were treated at hospital emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries. Burns were the leading type of fireworks injury (63%). Contusions and lacerations were second (18%), and were equal in share to burns when the injury was to any part of the head or face, including the eye. Hands or fingers were the part of the body injured in 26% of the incidents. In 20% of the cases, the eye was involved, and other parts of the face or head accounted for 17% of the injuries.
 - Pre-teens and teenagers face the highest risk of fireworks injuries. In 2003, 60% of people injured by fireworks were under the age of 20, with 45% of the injuries incurred by those under age 15. The highest injury rate relative to population was for ages 5 to 9, with 8.9 times the risk for the entire population.
 - Males accounted for nearly three-fourths (72%) of fireworks injuries.
 - From 1997 to 2001, an annual average of eight people were killed in fires started by fireworks. An annual average of seven people were killed directly by fireworks.
 - In 2002, fires started by fireworks caused \$26 million in direct property damage to structures. Fireworks-related fires have caused roughly \$20 million in property loss to structures per year in inflation-adjusted dollars in the past decade.
 - Based on the amount of time and quantities in use, fireworks pose a higher risk of fire death than any other consumer product. Although cigarettes are the leading cause of fire death, the risk that someone will die from fire when fireworks are being used is three times the corresponding risk when cigarettes are burning.
- 2003 fireworks injuries*
by type of fireworks
(See larger image.)**
- | Fireworks Type | Percentage |
|--------------------|------------|
| Hand Grenades | 20% |
| Direct fireworks | 1% |
| Fireworks routine | 26% |
| Pyrotechnic | 17% |
| Firecracker | 2% |
| Flashpot | 4% |
| Detonator | 6% |
| Explosive material | 6% |
| Shotgun | 4% |
| Shotgun | 4% |
| Shotgun | 4% |

2003 fireworks injuries*
by type of fireworks
(See larger image.)



- On Independence Day in a typical year, fireworks cause more outdoor fires in the United States than all other causes of outdoor fire combined.
- Six states ban the use of fireworks by consumers (AZ, DE, MA, NJ, NY, and RI). The other 44 states and the District of Columbia permit some or all consumer fireworks. [The American Pyrotechnics Association](#) has compiled a helpful map and directory of state-by-state fireworks control laws.

Source: NFPA's *Fireworks*, by John R. Hall, Jr., May 2005

One-Stop Data Shop report

Fireworks

John R. Hall, Jr., May 2005

Injury patterns and trends, including shares by type of fireworks, and fire patterns and trends, based on reports to hospital emergency rooms, and trends in fireworks-related fires. Unpublished annual report.

All visitors: [Download this report for free.](#) (PDF, 89 KB)

NFPA model fireworks law

For more than half a century, NFPA has led the charge to protect the public from injuries and fires resulting from indiscriminate use of fireworks. The International Fire Marshals Association (IFMA) offers [a model fireworks law](#) (PDF, 35 KB) which reflects NFPA's zero-tolerance policy on amateur use of fireworks.

FAQs

NFPA's technical staff has answered some "[Frequently Asked Questions](#)" about dusts, explosion venting, and pyrotechnics.

Fire investigation reports

- Firework manufacturing, Jaffrey, NH, 8/14/88
NFPA members: [Download this report for free.](#) (PDF, 249 KB)
- Explosion, Jennings, OK, 6/25/85, 21 fatalities.
NFPA members: [Download this report for free.](#) (PDF, 771 MB)

NFPA Journal® articles on fireworks

- [A long road back - A story about fireworks in untrained hands](#) (Members only), *NFPA Journal®*, September/October 2004
- [The sale of legal consumer fireworks prompts NFPA to develop a standard protecting retail consumer fireworks facilities](#), *NFPA Journal®*, May/June 2001 (PDF, 114 KB)

> Fireworks are too risky

URL: <http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=297&URL=Research%20&%20Reports/Fact%20sheets/Seasonal%20safety/Fireworks>

NFPA (National Fire Protection Association)

1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471 USA
Telephone: +1 617 770-3000 Fax: +1 617 770-0700

NEWS RELEASE

Embargoed until June 15, 2005

Contact: Contact: Margie Coloian,
NFPA Public Affairs Office: at 617-984-7275

Support for Ban on Consumer Fireworks Grows

*Twenty-one Health and Safety Advocacy Organizations
Partner to Prevent Injury & Fire*

WASHINGTON, DC—Twenty-one health and fire safety advocacy organizations came together today to urge consumers not to use fireworks, including sparklers, this Independence Day holiday because of the injuries and damage they cause.

Each year, most people injured by consumer fireworks are children and teens. While the fireworks causing these injuries are legal in the vast majority of states, they can often lead to severe burns, scars and disfigurement.

“Every year consumer fireworks injure and maim our children,” said James M. Shannon, president and CEO of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), which along with the American Academy of Pediatrics, founded the alliance of health and safety organizations three years ago. “Consumer fireworks are a significant public safety concern shared by doctors, nurses, other health care professionals, and members of the fire service.”

The alliance held a press conference today in the nation’s capital to drive home the safety message and to urge consumers instead to attend public displays of fireworks orchestrated by trained professionals.

Members of the alliance include American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Association for Hand Surgery, American Association of Public Health Physicians, American Burn Association, American College of Emergency Physicians, American Society of Plastic Surgeons, Emergency Nurses Association, Fire Department Safety Officers Association, International Association of Arson Investigators, International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Fighters, International Fire Marshals Association, Metropolitan Fire Chiefs, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, National Association of School Nurses, National Association of State Fire Marshals, National Fire Protection Association, National Volunteer Fire Council and Prevent Blindness America.

-MORE-

The group also released the following snapshot of the destruction caused by consumer fireworks.

Injuries: In the year 2003, five out of six (84%) of the 9,300 fireworks injuries reported to emergency departments involved fireworks that federal regulations permit consumers to use (formerly known as Class C fireworks). Total injuries were up from 8,800 from 2002. More than one-third (38%) of the 2003 fireworks injuries that presented in emergency departments were to the head, and half (51%) were to the extremities. About 20% of injuries involved the eyes. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of all injuries were burns.

Sixty percent of those injured were age 19 or younger. The highest risk of fireworks injury was to children, ages 5-9, whose risk in 2003 was nine times the all-age risk; in most other years, children ages 10-14 had the highest risk. Males accounted for nearly three-fourths (72%) of fireworks injuries.

Fires: In the year 2002, the latest year for which national fireworks-related fire statistics are available, fire departments responded to an estimated 3,000 structure and vehicle fires started by fireworks. Outdoor fires, however, can no longer be sorted by cause, as a result of fire coding changes beginning in 1999. But traditionally, on the Independence Day holiday, fireworks cause more fires in the U.S. than all other causes of fire on that day combined.

In the year 2002, fires started by fireworks caused \$28 million in property damage to structures and vehicles.

Laws: There are currently only six states that ban all consumer fireworks. They are: Arizona, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island. When the health and safety alliance was formed three years ago, there were 10 states that banned all consumer fireworks.

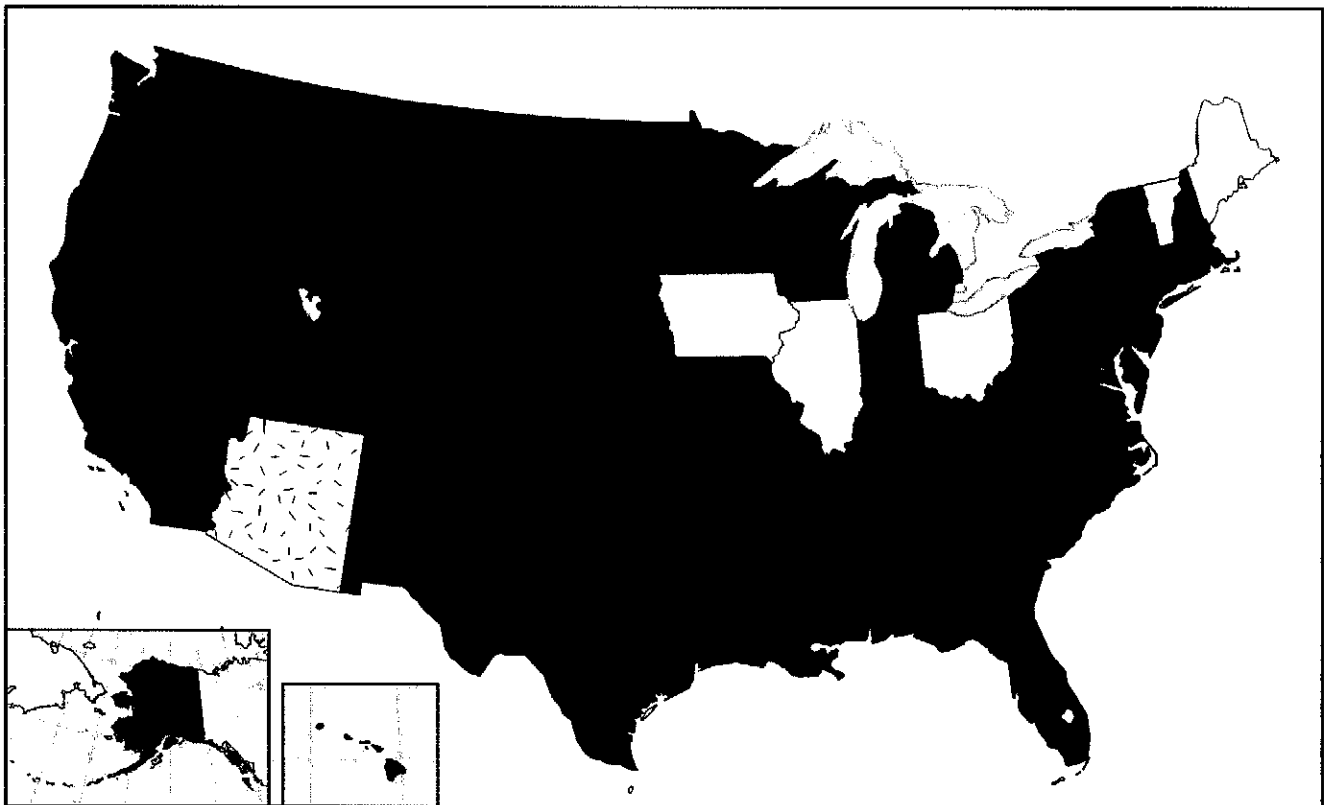
The estimated injury risk from legal fireworks was 14 times as high in the states that permitted sparklers and novelties compared to the full-ban states. In states that permit most or all consumer fireworks, the estimated injury risk was 57 times as high compared to states that ban the use of all consumer fireworks.

It is very difficult to enforce restrictions on fireworks use through state laws because residents of a state that prohibits fireworks can often cross a state border to buy the devices. Every year, for example, people from Massachusetts drive into neighboring New Hampshire to buy fireworks from retail stands that set up near the border.



State Fireworks Control Laws

45 states plus the District of Columbia allow some or all types of consumer fireworks.



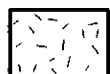
States that allow some or all types of consumer fireworks permitted by federal regulations. (39 states + DC)



States that allow only wire or wood stick sparklers and other novelty items. (5 states: IL, IA, ME, OH, VT)



States that ban all consumer fireworks. (5 states: DE, MA, NJ, NY, RI)



States that allow only novelty items. (1 state: AZ)

ILLINOIS

CONSUMER FIREWORKS

Specifically permitted

Sparklers, snake/glow worm pellets, smoke devices, trick noisemakers, and plastic or paper caps.

Specifically prohibited

Firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrockets, roman candles, and bombs.

DISPLAY FIREWORKS

Display permit

Required. Apply to local authorities at least 15 days before display date.

Insurance

Required. No amount specified in state law.

Operator

No license specifically required in state law but display must be handled by competent individual designated by local authorities.

Sale

Fireworks must be purchased from licensed wholesaler.

MANUFACTURE, STORAGE, TRANSPORATION

Safe plant location and storage areas specified in state law.

LICENSING

Manufacturing permit required, \$50 fee, apply to State Fire Marshal. Governing body will require a bond of not less than \$,1000 from the licensee.

ENFORCING AUTHORITY

State Fire Marshal
State of Illinois
Division of Fire Prevention
1035 Stevenson Drive
Springfield, IL 62730-4219
217-785-4714
www.state.il.us/osfm/

LAW NUMBER

425 ILCS 30, 425 ILCS 35

IOWA

CONSUMER FIREWORKS

Specifically permitted

Gold sparklers containing no magnesium, chlorate or perchlorate, flitter sparkler not more than 1/2" in diameter, and snakes containing no mercury.

Specifically prohibited

Firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrockets, roman candles, daygo bombs.

DISPLAY FIREWORKS

Display permit

Apply to local authorities.

Insurance

None specifically required in state law but may be local requirements.

Operator

No license specifically required in state law but must be handled by a competent authority.

ENFORCING AUTHORITY

Iowa State Fire Marshal
Division of State Fire Marshal
215 E. 7th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0001
515-281-5821
www.state.ia.us/epd/fire.htm

LAW NUMBER

Health, Safety and Welfare Code of Iowa,
Section 727.2